

HOOVER DAM TOUR

Thursday Afternoon, October 28, 2004



Just a short drive from the glitter and glamour of Vegas, the amazing Hoover Dam is a testimony to civil, electrical and mechanical ingenuity, applied to construct a monolithic project in the midst of adverse conditions. Built during the Great Depression between 1931 and 1935, thousands of men and their families came to Black Canyon to tame the Colorado River. It took less than 5 years to build the largest dam of its time. Now, 70 years later, Hoover Dam still stands as a world-renowned structure.

Hoover Dam is a National Historic Landmark and is called one of the Seven Engineering Wonders of the Modern World. This engineering marvel not only enabled the industrial development of the Pacific Southwest, but it also forms Lake Mead, the largest man-made reservoir in the Western Hemisphere. History comes to life as you tour the interior of this 72-story structure, see its powerplant, and view fascinating exhibits.

DISCOVERY TOUR

The bus trip from Vegas will take about 45 minutes. Once we arrive, everyone will participate in the 1-1/2 hour general-public "Discovery Tour". This is the same tour that nearly one million people take each year. The tour includes the most spectacular views of the facility, including a stop at the Observation Deck and the Winged Statues. Afterwards, we will have plenty of time to browse around the facility and Visitors Center.

VIP TOUR (special tour, after the Discovery Tour)

We have been granted exclusive permission for 55 people to participate in a "VIP Tour" of the facility. This private one-hour tour will include areas for which the general public is no longer allowed access (such as the turbine floor). The first qualifying on-line or faxed registrations requesting the special tour will be admitted. Due to the limited number of participants allowed, we regret that companions will not be considered, except in the event of fewer than 55 attendee applications. If your companion is interested in participation in the VIP Tour, please indicate this on your registration as we will build a "wait-list". However, it is unlikely that companions will be considered.

Also, due to security restrictions, the VIP Tour will only be offered to attendees who have attended at least one previous Transformers Committee Meeting. Newcomers and companions are welcome to attend the Discovery Tour, which is an award-winning presentation route that is preferred by most non-technical visitors. Those who consider applying for the VIP Tour should note that the tour is somewhat physically demanding, consisting of more than a mile of walking in warm conditions, with many stairs.



VIP Tour participants must provide their passport number or a US driver's license number. Have that information ready when you register on-line. Those registering by fax will be contacted later. No mailed-in registrations for the VIP Tour will be accepted.

TRIP DETAILS

The main Committee Meeting will end by 11:30 am on Thursday. We will take 2-3 coach buses to Hoover Dam. The buses will leave from the Green Valley Ranch Resort at 12:30 pm. The buses will make a brief stop in front of the Sunset Station Hotel around 12:40 pm. Lunch will not be provided, so be sure to eat before getting on the bus.

Once we get there, we will all begin the Discovery Tour at 2:00 pm. Once we have all participated in the Discovery Tour, and strolled around the facility for a few minutes, all companions and those not participating in the VIP Tour will return to Vegas, with bus stops at both the Green Valley Ranch Resort and Sunset Station (returning around 5:30 pm). The VIP Tour will start at 3:30 pm and those 55 people participating will return to Vegas around 6:30 pm.

Note: Due to changing security levels, the tours may be cancelled at any time without notice. All persons and bags will need to pass thru airport style security scanners, and bags and briefcases larger than 9" x 12" are not allowed. Strollers and wheelchairs are subject to search.



TOUR COSTS (includes admission fee and coach bus transportation)

Discovery Tour: US\$40 (meeting attendees, companions and newcomers are welcome)

Discovery Tour and VIP Tour: US\$55 (no companions, attendees of a past Committee Meeting only)

The above fees are refundable if the tours are cancelled.

Registrations for the VIP Tour will not be accepted after September 16 (although it is expected to sell-out very quickly). At that time, companions will be considered if there are less than 55 attendee registrations.



HOOVER DAM POWER FACTS

The dam and powerplant are operated and maintained by the US Bureau of Reclamation. There are 17 main turbines in the powerplant. The turbines, originally installed in 1935, were all replaced during an upgrade program between 1986 and 1993. The total plant nameplate capacity is 2,074 megawatts.

There are fifteen 178000 HP, one 100000 HP, and one 86000 HP Francis-type vertical hydraulic turbines. There are thirteen 130 MW, one 61.5 MW, one 68.5 MW, and two 127 kW generators. All machines operate at 60 cycles. There are also two 2400 kW station-service units driven by Pelton water wheels. These provide electrical energy for lights and for operating cranes, pumps, motors, compressors, and other electrical equipment within the dam and powerplant.